FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT
Pacific Southwest Region

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EVALUATION OF FOMES ANNOSUS IN WHITE FIR WARNER MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT, MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

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PSW FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
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ABSTRACT

Some areas in predominantly white fir stands near Benton Meadows have become understocked due to past partial cutting. All stands examined had Fomes annosus infection centers in white fir. Stand openings have allowed herbaceous vegetation to increase. Abundant herbaceous vegetation has expanded pocket gopher habitat and a large population is present. Repeated intensive cultural treatments will be necessary to regenerate the sites and produce a final crop.

INTRODUCTION

Stand examinations in predominantly white fir stands in the Benton Meadows area detected scattered Fomes annosus infections. Forest Supervisor Glenn Bradley requested an evaluation to determine what impact the disease would have on future timber sales in the area, including one proposed for 1984. The area was evaluated on July 21, 1983 by Dave Schultz and James Allison of the Forest Pest Management Staff, Dave Evans, Zone Silviculturist, and John Bradford from the District.

OBSERVATIONS

The stands examined were predominantly mature white fir with scattered western white pine. There have been previous stand entries for the purpose of removing volume. Some damage occurred to residual trees during previous entries. No attempt was made to regenerate the larger stand openings that resulted from previous sales, but some areas have

breakage than white fir is. Activities which generate pine slash, such as thinning and harvesting, would require more restrictions on the time of cutting and method of slash disposal than similar activities in fir would, because of the possibility of pine engraver, Ips spp., buildup.

This alternative would involve trading the relatively well-known current problems for the uncertainties of attempting to grow pine on a site which has supported primarily white fir for hundreds of years.

3. Regenerate primarily with white fir. Some of the planted white fir would probably become infected by Fomes annosus. A crop can be produced with a relatively small reduction in yield by keeping the trees rapidly growing throughout the entire rotation.

Treatment for gophers would be necessary for plantation establishment. This could begin during the sale design if the blocks are laid out so they do not touch meadows or other gopher refuges and if skid trails do not provide easy paths of travel from the refuges to the new plantations. It will probably still be necessary to bait burrow systems before plantations are established, due to the high population levels. Some reduction of gopher habitat can be accomplished during site preparation.

At least one release treatment and probably a precommercial thinning would be necessary to keep the trees freely growing. If the current islands of advanced regeneration are going to be saved, they should be thinned as soon as possible. All stand entries should be designed to cause as little wounding to residual crop trees as possible to postpone the entry of decay organisms into the butts.

If the white fir regeneration is allowed to stagnate at almost any point in the rotation, Fomes annosus damage to the stand would increase.